



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of July 9, 2013

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Stuart Rick, Chair
Kenita Barrow
Rachel Brown
Mark L. Greenblatt
Nina Weisbroth

Staff Member:

Robert Cobb, Chief Counsel

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The minutes from the 6/11/13 meeting were approved as presented.

Item 3. Robert Cobb provided an overview on the status of financial disclosure. Citing a memorandum prepared by Erin Chu, he indicated that all financial disclosure filers have submitted their 2012 annual financial disclosures at this time. There are six filers in Returned status who must resubmit their documents. Fifty-three financial disclosures have yet to be reviewed by department reviewers. The one delinquent filer filed his reports. He has been fined but has yet to pay the fine. He has been notified of the requirements for seeking a waiver or reduction of the fine amount.

Item 4. Cobb provided an update on the progress of implementation of the online lobbying activity reporting system.

Item 5. Cobb discussed a project to notify those who have signed in on the County Council's visitor's log of requirements to register as lobbyists. Cobb has been coordinating with Steve Farber, the Council Administrator on this project. A draft notice to potential lobbyists identified on the visitor's log was reviewed by the Commission with suggested edits being made by Mr. Rick and Mr. Greenblatt.



Item 6. The Commission discussed what matters should be brought to its attention by Mr. Cobb. The Commission indicated that for all those routine inquiries that do not require an interpretation of the Ethics Law or complaints that clearly do not fall within the Commission's jurisdiction, Cobb should exercise his discretion on whether the matters should be brought to the attention of the Commission. The Commission recommended that Cobb contact the Chair of the Commission if there is any question about whether a matter should be raised to the Commission's attention. In terms of handling Commission waivers, advisory opinions, and other substantive Commission documents, Cobb should work with the Commission members as appropriate to ensure the substance is agreed to. Wordsmithing on Commission documents can be coordinated with the Chair of the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert W. Cobb", is written over a faint, illegible background.

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel